

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1949

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
HOBSON STREET,
CAMBRIDGE.

June, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesterton Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1949 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and vital Statistics of the Chesterton Rural District. The Report is drawn up on the lines suggested in Circular 2/50 issued by the Ministry of Health.

As this is my last report I take the opportunity of thanking the Council and all the staff particularly the Chief Sanitary Inspector and others employed in the Public Health Department for the help and assistance I have received during my period of office.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	53
Estimated Civilian Population	36,410
Estimated Total Population	38,840
Rateable Value	£143,202
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£570
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books	11,334

The district is agricultural in character and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, jam making, etc.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The civilian population is used for the statistical calculations)

Live Births :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	530	269	261
Illegitimate	26	17	9
Totals	556	286	270

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	15.2
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	16.7

Still Births :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	12	8	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	12	8	4

Rate per thousand total (Live and Still Births)	21.1
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Deaths :—

Deaths :—	Total	Male	Female
	442	212	230
Death rate per thousand estimated population	12·1
Death rate per thousand (England and Wales) ...	...	...	11·7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	1
(b) Other Maternal Causes	Nil
Rate per thousand (Live and Still Births)	1.8

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	13	6	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—
				—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	14	7	7
				—	—	—

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per thousand Live Births	...	...	...	25.1
Legitimate Infants per thousand Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	24.5
Illegitimate Infants per thousand Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	38.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	83
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	...	...	...	14
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1

Birth and Death rates for the last six years as compared with the year under review :—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Birth rate	15.8	19.4	18.2	19.2	18.9	17.2	15.2
Death rate	10.4	11.9	13.0	11.4	13.9	9.8	12.1

Classification of Deaths under Age Groups

Ages				Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	7	7	14
1 and under 2	...	...	...	2	—	2
2 „ „ 5	...	...	...	2	—	2
5 „ „ 15	...	...	...	—	1	1
15 „ „ 25	...	...	...	5	2	7
25 „ „ 35	...	...	...	5	2	7
35 „ „ 45	...	...	...	4	4	8
45 „ „ 55	...	...	...	11	9	20
55 „ „ 65	...	...	...	29	34	63
65 „ „ 75	...	...	...	68	56	124
75 and over	...	...	...	79	115	194
				—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	212	230	442
				—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :—

Medical Officer of Health :—A whole-time Officer who also acts for all the Rural Districts in the County.

Sanitary Inspectors :—The normal staff consists of a Chief Sanitary Inspector and two qualified District Inspectors.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of water, etc., are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with infectious disease and samples of milk are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.

HOSPITALS:—

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of Tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The work of the Department has shown good progress throughout the year, during which the emphasis has been on water supplies, drainage, public cleansing, and food hygiene. The provision of adequate housing accommodation is still the major problem, and overshadows much of the staff's work. The task of supplying all villages throughout the area with a piped water supply is largely accomplished and much routine survey work has been undertaken to secure connections to the mains. This activity has also stimulated householders to instal modern sanitary fittings and drainage wherever possible calling for considerable inspection work in this connection. Action under the Housing Acts continues to be governed by the speed with which alternative accommodation can be made available, and one is resigned to the preservation of sub-standard houses for the time being. The expanding services offered in connection with public cleansing account for a considerable proportion of the Department's time and are a source of satisfaction to all concerned. The variety of work undertaken by the small staff is reflected in the subsequent detailed items and, having regard to the large area to be covered (174 square miles), may be regarded as satisfactory.

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1949:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Total Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	...	6,075
Miscellaneous Visits re complaints, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	461
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1,181
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	1,145
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	205
Visits re Verminous Persons or Property	...	...	...	...	...	31
Public Cleansing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	386
Shop Acts	...	...	...	...	...	142
River Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	51
Schools Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	17

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:—

Visits to Slaughter-houses	159
Butchers' Shops	91
Preserved Food Premises:—	
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	53
(2) Fried Fish Shops	39
Ice Cream Premises (Retailers)	103
Cafes and Restaurants	139
Other Food Premises	69
Bake-houses	97
Cowsheds	199
Retail Dairies	104
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	138

HOUSING

Housing Inspections (P.H.A., 1936)	38
Reinspections	34
Housing Inspections (Housing Acts)... ..	166
Reinspections	221
Movable Dwellings	173

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and Enquiries	109
Disinfections	73

HOUSING

Post-war Housing Progress up to 31st March, 1950:—

1. Number of dwellings completed including:—

Prefab bungalows	50
Bungalows	4
Flats	7
Swedish houses and Airey houses	96
Hut conversions	179
Permanent houses	176
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Total	512

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|--|-----|
| 2. Permanent houses in course of erection or contracts being drawn up | 196 |
| 3. Conversion of huts into Temporary Dwellings (ten-year) in hand | Nil |
| 4. Conversion of huts into Temporary Dwellings (five-year) in hand | 7 |

PARISH ALLOCATION

(Under contract or work commenced at 31.3.50)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temporary Accommodation	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	B'ngalows and Flats	Houses	B'ngalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs, etc.	Huts and Prefabs, etc.
Barton	6	—	—	—	—	—
Bourn	—	—	—	—	71	64
Caxton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Comberton ..	4	—	4	—	—	—
Conington ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Coton	50	—	20	—	—	—
Cottenham ..	22	4	16	4	22	22
Croxton	8	—	—	—	—	—
Dry Drayton ..	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	4	—	—	—
Fen Ditton ..	8	—	4	—	—	—
Fen Drayton ..	12	—	8	—	—	—
Fulbourn	16	—	12	—	10	10
Girton	55	—	24	—	—	—
Grantchester ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Graveley	—	—	—	—	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Haslingfield ..	6	4	6	4	—	—
Histon	22	—	22	—	—	—
Impington	22	—	22	—	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	—	—	—	—
Landbeach	8	—	—	—	—	—
Longstanton ..	6	—	6	—	26	26
Madingley	8	—	—	—	—	—
Milton	16	—	—	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	4	—	4	—	10	10
Over	8	—	8	—	—	—
Great Shelford ..	12	—	12	—	10	10
Little Shelford ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	4	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy ..	—	—	—	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	—	8	—	—	—
Teversham	12	—	12	—	—	—
Toft	8	—	8	—	—	—
Waterbeach	17	—	17	—	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Willingham	21	3	5	3	—	—
Totals	468	11	272	11	236	229

Number of houses built or in course of erection by private enterprise						Permanent	68
						Temporary	9
						Prefabs	13
						Conversions (units)	8

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year :—

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	204
Reinspections made	...	...	...	...	...	255
Demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	...	7
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	12
Undertakings (Section 11) accepted	...	...	...	...	...	3
Undertakings (Section 11) cancelled...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	...	121
Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken :—						
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	397
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses in respect of which undertakings (Section 11) have been accepted	...	...	...	...	...	65
Houses (or parts) closed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses made fit by formal action	...	...	...	...	...	24
Houses made fit by informal action...	...	...	...	...	...	548

Note.—These figures are totals up to 31.3.50.

As may be expected, Housing is one of the greatest problems confronting this Department. Progress in this field is almost entirely related to the speed with which new accommodation can be made available and, until such accommodation can be increased substantially, action with regard to unfit properties can only be proceeded with in the very worst cases. Unfortunately the making of Demolition Orders does not necessarily guarantee re-housing of the occupants within a reasonable time.

The position with regard to the repair of unfit properties is no easier, since the majority of owners find it impossible to meet the heavily increased cost of repairs and maintenance having regard to the low rents permitted under the Rent Restrictions Acts. Naturally the Department's policy must have regard to these factors, and in many cases only the more urgent repairs can be effected, usually by action under the Public Health Act, 1936—normal action under the Housing Act, 1936, being virtually precluded.

The provisions of the new Housing Act, 1949, with regard to grants, cannot materially effect the position, since action in this connection is largely confined to the better type dwellings which have an expected life of at least 30 years. A revision of the Rent Restrictions Act, enabling landlords to charge an economic rent for property in good repair, would have been of much greater benefit and would have a much wider application.

Since 1919 the Council has provided over 1,800 separate dwellings (all categories), and in spite of constant revision of the Council's list of applicants, there are still 1,662 families awaiting accommodation. These figures are made up as follows :—

Families in lodgings (no separate houses), (including 140 agricultural cases)	860
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Families in separate dwellings but under notice, Court
Orders, and being in unfit accommodation (including
253 agricultural cases) 802

The above figures reveal something of the problem confronting the Council but do not convey the complete picture, since it is estimated that at least a further 500 houses would be required to replace the obviously unfit cottages in existence at the present time. In addition, little regard has been taken of the sub-standard accommodation which is rapidly deteriorating towards the demolition state, and must be preserved, unfortunately, for some time to come.

There would appear to be a great need for smaller houses and accommodation for old people, and it is hoped that greater attention will be given to this aspect in future. The present standard three-bedroomed Council house with its elaborate fittings is rapidly becoming too expensive for the average rural tenant, and the more necessitous cases are being precluded from re-housing on this score.

REQUISITIONING—

At the 31st March, 1950, 53 properties were retained by the Council on Requisitioning Orders providing accommodation for 60 family units.

TEMPORARY HUTMENTS—

The Council has continued to accept and convert surplus military and R.A.F. hutments and, as will be seen from the housing figures, 179 huts have been completed and a further 7 huts are in hand. At the present time a total of 250 huts have been taken over and occupied. This course undoubtedly relieves the pressure on the Housing Committee and enables many urgent cases to be dealt with particularly where Court Orders are made. The use of these huts for permanent occupation, however, presents many difficulties, *e.g.* the provision of adequate services and heating, serious internal condensation in the winter months, etc., and one looks forward to the time when more permanent houses can be provided.

WATER SUPPLY:—

Since the comprehensive statement in my Report for 1945, and addition to the works reported in 1948, the villages of Stow-cum-Quy, Six Mile Bottom, Little Wilbraham, Barton, and Comberton have been supplied with mains water. Further extensions have been carried out at Elsworth, and the Harston-Haslingfield link main has been completed. The mains are being laid from Barton to Haslingfield and this latter parish will be connected shortly. The supply to Cottenham and Rampton has been augmented by the laying of a new 6 in. main from the Histon boundary to the centre of Cottenham village and a new 4 in. main to Rampton. In total, some 30 miles of water mains have been laid up to and during the year ended 31st March, 1950. The Western Area Scheme has continued to make progress and, although somewhat slow, is likely to be completed in the coming year. Schemes are prepared or under contract for supplying all the remaining parishes without a supply, details of which are as follows:—

Parish	Estimated Population (1942)	Estimated Total Gallons per day required for all purposes	Suggested source of supply	Progress made with Schemes
Harlton	289	7,890	Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board. (Wells at Kingston, Bourn and Fenstanton)	Mains laid to boundary of Haslingfield work proceeding
Haslingfield	685	21,198		
Graveley	176	5,922	Ditto	Tender accepted Starting date 1st August, 1950
Papworth St. Agnes	103	3,331		
Dry Drayton	410	14,743	Ditto	Work in progress
Childerley } Hardwick	444	1,885 11,324		
Newton	257	5,278	Harston	Scheme submitted. Awaiting approval of Ministry of Health

In order to meet the difficulty of securing connections to the new mains, the Council's Engineer is developing a direct labour scheme although progress in this direction is somewhat impeded by the greatly increased amount of maintenance work involved.

It is satisfactory to record that the whole district will probably be supplied with mains water by the end of 1950.

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY :—

During the year it was necessary to cart water as follows :

Parish	Approx. Gallons per week	Duration
Caldecote	1,500	Continuously
Dry Drayton	4,000	"
Papworth St. Agnes	500	"
Hardwick	5,000	"
Comberton	500	} 6 months until mains became available
Toft	2,000	
Total Gallons per week		13,500

In spite of the abnormal dry summer the amount of water transported has shown a considerable decrease owing to the progress with the mains supplies. At the present time there are approximately 50 tanks distributed in the parishes referred to, which are filled, when necessary, by the Council's ex-army tanker. One can look forward to the gradual elimination of this service as the remaining parishes are connected to the mains.

Since the new submersible type pump has been installed at the Council's Harston works no further trouble has been experienced.

The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board wells at Kingston, Bourn, and Fenstanton have proved adequate during the year but, in view of the anticipated requirements of constituent authorities, it is proposed to supplement the supply by the new bore being sunk at Bourn, and the extraction of water from the Air Ministry's bore at Harston.

CHLORINATION—

With exception of the two works serving single parishes (Harston and Willingham) all public supplies are chlorinated. The routine samples reveal excellent bacteriological results from all sources.

SAMPLING—

The public supplies have been sampled monthly for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, and apart from high hardness figures, the results have been satisfactory. A scheme for softening the Joint Water Board's supplies was deferred by the Ministry of Health until a more opportune time.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	good	good	good	good	good
Reaction (pH value)	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.9	7.0
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.1	3.75	8.6	2.3	6.75
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0014	0.0008	0.0014	0.0414	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0008	0.0008	0.0006	0.0004	0.0252
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0311	0.0332	0.0285	0.0196	0.2110
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	0.55	0.65	absent	absent	0.10
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
No. of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ditto at 21°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Maximum Hardness during year (grains per gall.)	15.6	29.5	33.8	4.0	33.5
Minimum ditto	7.6	25.48	31.5	3.48	31.75

Total Number of samples taken	...	...	146
Samples from Public supplies	...	...	90
Samples from private wells, etc.	...	...	56
Samples reported safe for drinking	...	...	108
Samples reported unsafe for drinking	...	...	38
Water supplies to Houses improved as a result of action by the Department (excluding mains extensions)			21

WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.50

Parishes	Population Estimated 1948	No. of Houses 1948	Statutory Authority	No. of Houses taking Supply (Rated)	% of Houses at 31.3.50	Remarks
Barton	509	181	C.R.D.C.	45	24%	Mains just completed
Bourn	732	237	C.R.D.C.	169	70%	
Boxworth	195	63	C.R.D.C.	45	71%	
Caldecote	371	120	C.R.D.C.	85	70%	
Caxton	352	114	C.R.D.C.	83	72%	
Childerley	22	7	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand Mains just completed
Comberton	571	185	C.R.D.C.	89	48%	
Conington	117	38	C.R.D.C.	22	60%	
Coton	346	112	C.W.W.	83	74%	
Cottenham	2,603	875	C.R.D.C.	787	90%	
Croxton	182	59	C.R.D.C.	42	71%	Scheme in progress
Dry Drayton	398	129	C.R.D.C.	—	—	
Elsworth	454	147	C.R.D.C.	94	64%	
Eltisley	300	97	C.R.D.C.	70	72%	
Fen Ditton	602	195	C.W.W.	104	53%	
Fen Drayton	414	134	C.R.D.C.	53	40%	Ditto [partly com- pleted]
Fulbourn	2,249	440	C.W.W.	274	62%	
Girton	2,092	580	C.W.W.	536	92%	
Grantchester	494	160	C.W.W.	144	90%	
Graveley	201	65	C.R.D.C.	—	—	
Hardwick	482	156	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand Scheme in progress W.A.S.
Harlton	263	85	C.R.D.C.	—	—	
Harston	921	298	C.R.D.C.	252	84%	
Haslingfield	680	220	C.R.D.C.	—	—	
Hauxton	358	116	C.R.D.C.	77	66%	
Histon	2,501	842	C.W.W.	1,135	88%	(with Histon)
Horningssea	334	108	C.R.D.C.	44	41%	
Impington	1,275	429	C.W.W.	—	88%	
Knapwell	93	30	C.R.D.C.	17	56%	
Landbeach	509	194	C.R.D.C.	100	51%	
Lolworth	120	39	C.R.D.C.	4	10%	Scheme in hand
Longstanton A.S.	352	114	C.R.D.C.	59	51%	
Longstanton S.M.	136	44	C.R.D.C.	6	14%	
Madingley	188	61	C.W.W.	—	—	
Milton	643	208	C.W.W.	147	70%	
Newton	266	86	C.R.D.C.	—	—	Scheme in hand
Oakington	513	166	C.R.D.C.	139	84%	
Over	995	338	C.R.D.C.	255	75%	
Papworth Everard	1,517	216	C.R.D.C.	198	91%	
Papworth S. Ag.	102	33	C.R.D.C.	—	—	
Rampton	222	72	C.R.D.C.	68	94%	Scheme in hand
Great Shelford	2,309	780	C.W.W.	689	88%	
Little Shelford	541	175	C.W.W.	117	67%	
Stapleford	809	262	C.W.W.	202	80%	
Stow-cum-Quy	500	162	C.R.D.C.	78	48%	
Swavesey	905	293	C.R.D.C.	249	85%	Scheme in hand
Teversham	451	146	C.W.W.	100	61%	
Toft	263	85	C.R.D.C.	52	61%	
Waterbeach	1,523	493	C.R.D.C.	152	30%	
Westwick	43	14	C.R.D.C.	4	29%	
Great Wilbraham	420	136	C.W.W.	89	65%	Scheme in hand
Little Wilbraham	287	93	C.R.D.C.	36	26%	
Willingham	1,785	578	W.W.W.	500	87%	
	35,510	11,010		7,494 (68%)		

C.R.D.C.: Chesterton Rural District Council.
 C.W.W.: Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.
 W.W.W.: Private Company (Willingham Water Company).
 W.A.S.: Western Area Scheme.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:—

The Department operates a scheme of refuse collection by direct labour in all parishes. The scheme is designed to give the more urban parishes adjoining the Borough a weekly collection, and the remaining villages a collection not less frequently than once per month. The present schedule of collections is as follows:—

COLLECTIONS, 1949

House Refuse					
Weekly	Hses.	Fortnightly	Hses.	By Request	Hses.
Girton	580	Waterbeach	493	Pap. St. Agnes	33
Histon	842	Landbeach	194		
Impington	429	Milton	208		
Gt. Shelford	780	Hauxton	116		
Lt. Shelford	175	Harston	298		
Stapleford	262	Newton	86		
6 parishes	3,068	6 parishes	1,395	1 parish	33

Monthly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.
Barton	181	Fulbourn	440	Madingley	61
Bourn	237	Grantchester	160	Oakington	180
Boxworth	63	Elsworth	147	Westwick	
Caxton	114	Eltisley	97	Over	338
Caldecote	120	Fen Drayton	134	Papworth Everard	72
Childerley	7	Graveley	65	Rampton	216
Conington	38	Haslingfield	220	Quy	162
Cottenham	875	Harlton	85	Toft	85
Coton	112	Horningsea	108	Swavesey	293
Comberton	185	Hardwick	156	Teversham	146
Croxton	59	Knapwell	30	Wilbraham Gt.	136
Dry Drayton	129	Lolworth	39	Wilbraham Lt.	93
Fen Ditton	195	Longstantons (2)	158	Willingham	578
		40 Parishes	6,514 houses		

This Department also undertakes the collection of nightsoil as follows:—

Collection of Night Soil

Weekly	Houses
Waterbeach	350
Grantchester (part) by contract	50
2 parishes	400 houses

Having regard to the large area of the district (174 square miles), and the scattered nature of the villages (53), the service offered is the best that can be achieved without very substantial increase in cost, and has

proved of great value. Generally speaking, the service has been well maintained, apart from the usual troubles arising from shortage of labour and the long hauls involved in a rural district.

The fleet consists of three Karrier Bantams (7 cu. yd.), and one 12 cu. yd. Karrier C.K. 3 vehicle (acquired in November, 1949). The acquisition of the latter vehicle will undoubtedly reduce the number of journeys on the more rural routes with a consequent saving of time and cost.

With the abolition of special rates it is naturally expected that each village will share the service, and the increased number of new properties, hutted camps, etc., plus a wider use of the service, has severely taxed the resources of the Department, particularly on the administrative side. A stock of B.S.S. dustbins is held for resale to the public at cost price.

DISPOSAL—

At the present time disposal is carried out by controlled tipping at five tips—Histon, Hauxton, Landbeach, Fulbourn, and Fen Drayton. Having regard to the flat nature of the district and the normal high level of the subsoil water, the problem of disposal is far from easy, and difficulty in this connection is anticipated in the future. During the year, advantage has been taken of the sewerage contract in progress at Histon to secure ample soil for covering the main tip at Histon, but in most other cases covering material has to be transported. With the increased amount of refuse to be disposed of, the necessity for more mechanical aids is becoming apparent. At present a bulldozer is hired from time to time, although, ultimately it is hoped that consideration will be given to the acquisition of soil moving equipment, possibly in conjunction with the Engineer's Department.

The tips are maintained in good condition having regard to the many difficulties, and regular contracts are entered into with the Agricultural Committee for rodent destruction.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING—

An additional Karrier Yorkshire 700-gallon cesspool emptier was acquired in May, 1949, and both vehicles are engaged on cesspool clearance for which a nominal charge is made. The service is in great demand and considerable work is undertaken at Schools for the Education Authority; the desludging of small sewage disposal plants on new housing sites; and the emptying of road catchpits and gullies. Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night soil, and a scheme involving approximately 350 buckets per week is undertaken in the parish of Waterbeach.

COLLECTION OF SALVAGE—

Since January, 1948, when the Department assumed responsibility for this work, much attention has been given to this aspect, and the public were responding well. Unfortunately, in June, 1949, despite the organisation established by the Board of Trade, the market for waste paper disappeared overnight, and the collected and baled paper could not be disposed of. This assumed such serious proportions that ultimately a fire occurred, due to spontaneous combustion, and the store was gutted.

Since there appeared to be little prospect of a guaranteed market in the future, the collection was discontinued. Prior to this trouble, collections were producing approximately 100 tons per annum, representing an income of £500-£600.

Summary of Public Cleansing Work Carried Out during year ending 31st March, 1950

HOUSE REFUSE—

Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	...	...	...	...	4,061 tons
Total mileage travelled (4 vehicles)	...				32,971 miles
Cost of vehicle per mile	...	...	...		10.16d.
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	...	...	...	...	24s. 2d.
Estimated number of clearances	...	...			271,302
Estimated cost per clearance	...	...			4.3d.
Average mileage per ton	...	...	...		8.1 miles
Average miles per gallon (4 vehicles)	...				10.1 miles

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION (direct labour)—

Total number of bucket clearances	...				16,887
Estimated cost per clearance	...	...			4.4d.
Contract price per bucket clearance	...				6d.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING (two vehicles)—

Actual mileage travelled	...	...	...		19,104 miles
Estimated cost per mile	...	...	...		11.9d.
Estimated cost per clearance	...	...			42s. 10d.
Estimated number of loads disposed of	...				1,226
Estimated cost per load (collection and disposal)	...	...	...	...	29s. 3d.

The cost per mile for running the refuse vehicles has increased from 8.8d. to 10.16d. This is accounted for by the increased cost of petrol, the age of the vehicles, the acquisition of the new 12 cu. yd. vehicle, and the costly method of servicing and maintenance by a private firm. A new system has been instituted whereby the vehicles will be serviced and maintained by our own staff, and considerable saving should be apparent next year.

The cost per ton for collection and disposal of refuse has also increased from 23s. 8d. to 24s. 2d. Whilst this figure is not unreasonable, having regard to the scattered area served, involving long haulage, etc., the increase is mainly due to increased wages and the factors mentioned above.

The operation of the two cesspool emptiers shows a deficiency of £775 on the year's working. This figure is somewhat higher than was anticipated, but is partly accounted for by the fact that the second vehicle was put into commission in May, 1949, and as a result of the exceptionally

dry summer, the amount of rechargeable work decreased. Since the beginning of 1950, the amount of work available has been more than enough to keep both vehicles fully employed, and improved figures may be anticipated next year. Having regard to the great value of the service, and the fact that the maximum benefit is passed on to householders, the position may be regarded as satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:—

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the district which are open to the public. There is, however, much bathing in the River Cam, above and below Cambridge, and some anxiety is felt in this connection. The condition of the river is gradually deteriorating as a result of the discharge of certain trade wastes from manufacturing premises in Hauxton and Sawston (outside the area). The establishment of premises for the manufacture of plant-spraying chemicals, adjacent to the river at Hauxton, has given rise to much discoloration and forms a potential source of trouble. Frequent samples of river water have been taken but have not so far produced results warranting formal action. All the evidence at present indicates intermittent discoloration rather than harmful pollution, and while this is undoubtedly detrimental to local amenities, action under the Rivers Pollution Acts is difficult. The firm at Hauxton are proposing to instal extensive plant to deal with their trade wastes, and the position is being closely watched. The effluent from the Cambridge Corporation sewage works also discharges into the Cam below Cambridge. The River Cam, forming one of the natural beauties of Cambridge, is small and slow moving, especially above the town, and cannot be expected to receive any quantity of industrial wastes without marked effect since little real dilution is available. No doubt the new River Board will have this aspect very much at heart and direct close attention to the matter.

Samples of river water taken for analysis ... 56

SHOPS ACT, 1934:—

There are 311 shops of various categories on the register, the majority being small premises mainly in conjunction with private houses. No necessity for formal action arose during the year. Apart from the routine visits to food shops reported elsewhere, 142 visits were made under the Shops Act. It is unusual to find premises where several assistants are employed, the majority being family concerns, consequently a somewhat liberal interpretation of the Act must be allowed.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:—

The acute housing position, together with the large "floating" population of Cambridge, has given rise to a substantial increase in the number of persons occupying caravans in the district. In view of the fact that many such families cannot claim any housing priority, sympathetic consideration is given to their proposals, and providing the caravan is of a good type and the siting acceptable to the Planning Committee, a licence is normally granted. Every effort is made to discourage, and if necessary reject, applications in respect of old bus bodies, railway carriages, etc. With the increasing interest and control exercised by the Planning authority, particularly in respect of licensed sites, difficulty is being experienced in meeting the genuine need of caravan dwellers seeking sites

within easy access of Cambridge. One can foresee the time approaching when consideration may have to be given to the establishment by the local authority of one or more recognised sites for this purpose where ample facilities can be provided.

There has been the usual seasonable influx of caravan dwellers for fruit picking and agricultural work, but their stay is of short duration and no formal action was necessary during the year.

Number of licences issued for sites	...	...	...	8
Maximum number of vehicles involved	...	...	...	44
Number of licences issued for single caravans	...	...	...	58
Number of licences refused	...	...	...	2
Total number of visits paid in connection with moveable dwellings	...	...	...	173
Sites improved—new dustbins—water laid on	...	...	...	2

VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS:—

CARE OF AGED—

Very little difficulty has been experienced during the year with regard to verminous premises or persons, the major problem being that of old people living alone in unsatisfactory circumstances. There is still a great need in the County for more residential accommodation for old people, who, although quite active and intelligent, are unable to care for themselves because of physical and, in some cases, minor mental deterioration. The need is not for institutional treatment, but for accommodation where sympathetic care and attention can be given without reduction of self respect and independence. The Council, as the Housing authority, might also give consideration to the building of more bungalows for old people, thereby freeing larger houses for families. The care of old people is becoming an increasing problem meriting the concern of all Housing and Health authorities.

The removal of one old lady, no longer capable of caring for herself, was effected compulsorily under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. Although the Court Order specified a period of 3 months retention in hospital, in point of fact, the arrangement has now become permanent owing to a gradual decline in her health. One cannot help feeling that action under this Section, although necessary in a few cases, is an unsatisfactory and unsympathetic course, and presents an invidious task for the officer concerned.

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises and persons	...	31
Premises fumigated	...	5

Arrangements have been made for the fumigation of articles not capable of treatment on the spot at the County Hospital, but so far it has not been possible to secure facilities for the cleansing of verminous persons since the National Health Services Act.

RODENT DESTRUCTION:—

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act and the Infestation Order, 1943, are administered by the Cambridgeshire County Council who em-

ploy the Agricultural Executive Committee as their agents. This has the advantage that all rodent destruction is carried out by one department throughout the County, although the results, so far as the destruction of rats is concerned, have not been entirely satisfactory. The Council enters into suitable contracts with the Agricultural Committee for the regular inspection and treatment of all refuse tips and other Council sites. When the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, becomes law on the 1st April, 1950, it is the Council's intention to set up an organisation to carry out the duties imposed.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:—

Visits in connection with drainage	...	...	...	1,181
House drains—new or repaired	...	...	...	123
Closet accommodation—new or repaired	...	...	...	63

The department is responsible for the inspection and testing of all new drainage and drainage repairs or alterations to existing properties, and with the improvement in the licensing position much more of this work has been possible during the year, as will be seen from the figures quoted above.

It is gratifying to be able to report that work was commenced in May, 1949, on part of the Council's scheme for sewerage the 6 parishes adjoining Cambridge (Histon, Impington, Girton, Great and Little Shelford, and Stapleford). It proved impossible to proceed with the work as one Contract and the scheme has been divided into several smaller ones. Contracts Nos. 1 and 2 are being proceeded with and provide for parts of Girton, Histon, and Great Shelford. At the time of writing Contract No. 1 has been completed and Contract No. 2 is 75 per cent completed. Schemes for sewerage the parishes of Cottenham, Fulbourn, and Milton have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and authority to proceed is awaited. It seems unlikely that the Council will be permitted to proceed with these schemes at present, owing to the Government's limitation of capital investment, although the provision of sewers in these parishes is considered very necessary. In the case of Fulbourn, however, priority may be given in order to safeguard the wells of the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

It can also be recorded that much greater attention is now being paid to the necessity for securing adequate sewage disposal arrangements on new housing sites, and the policy of securing and developing larger sites where sewage disposal plants can be installed economically is to be commended. One of the main objections to "in filling" as advocated by the Planning authorities is the difficulty of providing adequate drainage and it is now realised that cesspools are no answer to the problem.

With the district almost completely served with a piped water supply more attention can be devoted to the provision of sewerage, although in a large and scattered area of this kind the problem is no easy one bearing in mind the flat nature of the district and the scattered nature of the villages. Disposal schemes are being prepared or have been completed for housing sites at Cottenham (50 houses), Fen Ditton (20 houses), Oakington (18 houses), Longstanton (50 houses), and Waterbeach (30 houses). (A total of 208 existing and proposed dwellings.)

SCHOOLS:—

Material progress is being made with the provision of new schools and the extension of the school meals service, etc. The Education Act, 1947, has not, however, provided a speedy remedy for the bad conditions which exist at many non-provided schools, and one could wish that this aspect might be given more priority over such things as further education and the provision of new village colleges, etc. It must be difficult indeed, to instil in young minds the correct ideas of hygiene with the arrangements and facilities that exist in many of these schools.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

MILK SUPPLY:—

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into force on 1st October, 1949, and transferred responsibility for the supervision of milk production generally to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a matter for regret that the public health control involved has been surrendered to a Government Department closely concerned with the economics of the industry, and one wonders whether the steady improvement and progress revealed in past Annual Reports will be continued under the new scheme. The most disturbing feature revealed so far is the fact that the control of milk quality, so far as undesignated milk is concerned, is to be left to the purchasers of the milk, *i.e.* the trade. Apparently the Ministry's advisory staff are not to be consulted until the producer, either by his own efforts or with the assistance of the Milk Marketing Board, has failed to secure improvement. This is not a satisfactory substitute for the frequent routine visits of a statutory officer devoid of commercial interest, particularly having regard to the fact that the most unsatisfactory methods and premises are mainly to be found amongst the non-designated producers.

At the 1st October, 1949, the position in this area was as follows:—

Number of Wholesale Producers on Register	...	...	184
Number of Producer Retailers on Register	...	...	78
Number of Retail Purveyors	...	...	14

Included in the above figures are 61 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and 41 accredited producers (29 per cent and 19 per cent respectively). Of the 213 registered producers in the area 47 per cent now produce designated milk and 48 herds (22 per cent) are "attested."

During the nine months ending 30th September, 1949, the following work was carried out under the old Milk and Dairies Regulations:—

Visits to cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	199
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	13
New cowsheds constructed	...	...	...	...	8
Cowsheds improved—new floors, etc.	...	...	...	...	5
New or improved drainage	...	...	...	...	3
Yards and approaches improved	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply laid on or improved	...	...	...	...	2
New dairies built	...	...	...	...	3

The coming into force of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, on 1st October last saw the withdrawal of the Department from the

supervision of milk production and its concentration on the distribution side with the following results:—

Number of distributors registered with premises in the area	14
Number with premises outside the area	3
Visits paid to retail dairies	104
Licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk	6
Licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	3
Licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	1
Licences issued to retail "T.T. (Pasteurised)" milk	3

The new regulations imposed somewhat stringent conditions upon the small retailers remaining under the control of the Department and several new dairies are under construction in order to comply with the requirements. It is to be hoped that the Regulations will be similarly enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture in respect of producer retailers.

MILK SAMPLING:—

There are no pasteurising plants in the area. The policy of the Department has been to carry out routine sampling of milk as delivered by the retailers and to submit such samples as are appropriate for biological examination for Tuberculosis and *Brucella Abortus*. The following table shows a summary of the results obtained:—

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1949

Category	Samples taken for Bacteriological Tests	Number Passing Prescribed Tests	Number Failing	Number submitted to Biological Test	Number found Positive	
					T.B.	B.A.
Tuberculin Tested	15	10	5	16	—	1
T.T.						
Pasteurised	6	6	—	—	—	—
Accredited	14	11	3	29	—	8
Pasteurised	14	10	4	—	—	—
Channel Islands	3	2	1	1	—	—
Ungraded	31	14	17	31	3	1
Totals	83	53	30	77	3	10

It should be noted that at the time of sale to the public 36 per cent of the milk samples failed to comply with the required bacteriological standards. The 3 T.B. positive samples were reported to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and the 3 affected cows were quickly identified and slaughtered. Although 10 samples revealed *Brucella Abortus* and were passed to the Veterinary Department of the Ministry, no formal action was found possible as a result of herd examinations.

In one case milk from a T.T. herd was diverted for heat treatment as a precautionary measure as a result of a mild outbreak of poliоencephalitis in one village.

BAKE-HOUSES:—

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	...	97
Notices served and complied with	...	...	...	...	...	9

These premises are mainly small village bake-houses and the requirements of the Factories Act and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are complied with. There has been a very marked improvement in the general standard of these premises in the last few years, and with the exception of possibly three very old premises, the standard compares favourably with any other rural area. During the year one new bake-house was completed and one old one demolished. Two bake-houses have been extended. In addition the following improvements have been carried out:—

Bake-houses extended or improved	...	...	...	...	9
Improved washing facilities	...	...	...	...	3
New drainage	...	...	...	...	3
New ovens installed	...	...	...	...	1
New machinery, dough mixers, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Premises redecorated	..	...	...	...	2

A much greater use is being made of modern machinery in the trade and since this eliminates or reduces the handling of bread and cakes it is to be encouraged.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (*Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938*):—

			Totals	Visits Paid
Total number on Register	...	...	84	195
Manufacturers of sausages, etc.	...	...	25	53
Fish fryers	...	...	9	39
Sale only of ice cream	...	...	50	103

The majority of these premises were brought up to the required standard in 1946, and the requirements of the Act, particularly with regard to washing facilities, etc., are complied with. The trades have co-operated fully with the Department and no case of food poisoning was notified during the year. As a result of informal action the following improvements were effected during the year:—

SAUSAGE MAKING PREMISES—

Structural improvements	...	...	...	...	1
Improved washing facilities	1
Premises redecorated	2

FISH-FRYING SHOPS—

New premises built	2
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ICE CREAM PREMISES—

New drainage	1
Improved washing facilities	1
New refrigerators	2

There are no premises in the area registered for the manufacture of ice cream although there has been a substantial increase in the number

of premises registered for its sale. No formal action has been necessary under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. The following table shows the results of sampling during the year. It will be seen that 13 out of 17 samples fell within Categories 3 and 4, although it must be borne in mind that no statutory standard of bacteriological cleanliness has yet been fixed, and some doubt still exists (particularly with the trade) as to the efficiency of the present methylene blue test.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES FROM RETAILERS IN 1949—

Total samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	17
Samples in Category 1	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " " 2	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " " 3	...	...	...	...	...	6
" " " 4	...	...	...	...	...	7

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES, AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES:—

Recorded visits during the year were as follows:—

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	91
Cafes, restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	139
Other food stores, N.A.A.F.I.s, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	13
Retail dairies	...	...	...	...	...	104
Miscellaneous visits to food shops	...	...	...	...	...	56

The hygiene of catering and food premises has again received considerable attention during the year and no effort is spared to raise the standard generally, with particular reference to Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The trade has co-operated very well and the easing of building controls and the progress made with piped water supplies should have a beneficial effect in this direction. As a result of close liaison with the local Food Office no catering licence is issued until the Department has expressed satisfaction with the premises—an arrangement which proves extremely useful and effective. It may be interesting to note the following categories of catering licences at present in force in the area:—

Cafes and restaurants (full catering licences)	...	...	...	...	17
Cafes (snack licence only)	...	...	...	...	1
Public houses (full catering licences)	...	...	...	...	6
Public houses (snack licence only)	...	...	...	...	72
Clubs, etc., with full catering licences	...	...	...	...	1
Clubs (teas and snacks only)	...	...	...	...	40
Residential establishments (full catering licences)	...	...	...	...	9
Village pie schemes	...	...	...	...	25
Factory canteens (full catering licences)	...	...	...	...	13
School canteens (full catering licences)	...	...	...	...	11
Total licences in force	...	...	...	...	195

As a result of informal action the following improvements have been effected during the year:—

FOOD SHOPS—

New premises built	...	...	...	...	1
Premises improved or extended	...	...	...	...	8
Improved washing facilities...	...	...	...	...	6
Premises redecorated	...	...	...	...	1
Additional equipment provided	...	...	...	...	2

CATERING PREMISES:—

New cafes built	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurant kitchens improved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Improved washing facilities...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water laid on or improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Redecoration and general repairs	...	...	...	...	...	2

LICENSED PREMISES:—

Continued progress has been made in the improvement of these premises as a result of the Department's survey and action in 1946. The easing of licensing restrictions and the co-operation of the brewers concerned has enabled a noticeable improvement to be effected in the general standard of sanitary accommodation and glass-washing facilities, and much general repair work and redecoration has been carried out. In most cases the standard compares favourably with premises situated in the towns, and the few remaining poor premises will be replaced with new buildings when licensing restrictions permit. The following work has been recorded as a result of informal action during the year:—

Premises completely reconditioned	...	...	...	...	...	3
New sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	2
New drainage installed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	6
Glass-washing facilities improved (geysers installed, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	9
Improved lighting	...	...	...	...	...	1
General repairs	...	...	...	...	...	8
Redecoration (internally and externally)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total visits recorded during year	...	...	...	...	...	138

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:—

Meat for the whole district continues to be supplied from Government slaughter-houses and depots in Cambridge, and the manner in which the meat is transported is still open to criticism although some improvement is noticeable. The long distances to be travelled tend to result in overloading of the vehicles to the detriment of the meat, particularly in the hot weather. Some contractors still decline to hang even the hind-quarters during transit. The meat, especially imported, has been of poor quality in many cases, although little disease has been encountered. Where any has been condemned it has mostly been due to bruising, heating, and loss of condition during transit or storage.

12 private slaughter-houses have been licensed for pig-killing and routine inspections of pigs killed is carried out wherever possible. Owners are advised when disease is encountered and no difficulty has been experienced in securing the disposal of any affected meat.

One slaughter-house has been licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption. During the year 205 horses were inspected.

Two carcasses were condemned (emaciation and peritonitis) the remainder of the meat condemned being offal affected with parasites, etc. Difficulty has been experienced in securing adequate control over this trade since the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, do not apply to horse-flesh.

Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	130
Visits to butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	91
Slaughter-houses improved	...	...	...	...	...	2

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933:—

Licences to slaughter renewed, 1948	...	...	...	...	31
New licences issued, 1949	...	...	...	...	2
Total on Register at 31st December, 1949...	...	...	...	...	33

Since the majority of private pig-killing now takes place in licensed premises, supervision is facilitated, and in all cases humane killers are used. Some laxity has been observed (and checked) regarding the precautions to be adopted to prevent slaughtering taking place within sight of other animals.

UNSOUND FOOD-STUFFS:—

No case of food poisoning was reported in the area during the year 1949. Investigations were made (and are still proceeding) into the tainting of garden produce grown in the vicinity of premises where weed-killing chemicals are manufactured.

Most food-stuffs have already been examined prior to entry into the district, and only small quantities revealed during routine inspection have to be dealt with. The whole of the imported and home-killed meat was condemned owing to loss of condition, decomposition, etc., arising from transport or storage. This has been found to be due in most cases to severe bruising and insufficient cooling of the carcase before despatch. The following is an abridged summary of the food-stuffs condemned:—

HOME-KILLED MEAT—

- 290 lb. of beef (miscellaneous)
- 6½ lb. of mutton
- 263 lb. of pork

IMPORTED MEAT—

- 148 lb. of beef (miscellaneous)
- 14 lb. of mutton

TINNED GOODS—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	28 tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	11 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	2 gallons
Peanut Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1 tin

RATIONED GOODS—

Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 boxes
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	150 lb.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Headless Cod	...	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Dried fruit, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	91 lb.

FACTORIES:—

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	...	...	97
Number of factories without mechanical power	...	...	22
Inspections recorded	...	...	180
Notifications of outworkers received	...	...	12
Infected premises	...	...	Nil
Notices served	...	...	10

As a result of action by the Department, the following improvements have been recorded during the year:—

New sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	4
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	1
New drainage installed	...	...	...	2
Premises extended or repaired	...	...	...	4
Improved working accommodation	...	...	...	4
Water laid on	...	...	...	1

The majority of registered premises are small undertakings employing few persons. The Department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases Under Age Groups

Disease	Total cases notified	At Ages—Years													Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—			
Scarlet Fever	49	—	—	2	3	5	27	7	3	2	—	—	—	24	—	
Measles	493	5	33	36	39	62	241	54	9	10	3	1	—	1	—	
Whooping Cough	84	6	8	9	13	10	30	6	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	
Dysentery— (Sonne)	13	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	2	2	1	—	10	—	
Pneumonia	19	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	2	1	5	4	—	10	
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	
Poliomyelitis	10	1	2	—	1	1	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	8	2	
Totals	676	14	43	47	57	80	303	73	16	20	6	11	6	45	13	

In July six cases of poliomyelitis and encephalitis occurred in the parishes of Harlton and Haslingfield two of which were fatal. Later on in the year four more suspected cases occurred, two at Lords Bridge and two at Waterbeach and all recovered. Detailed investigations were carried out in collaboration with Dr. McFarlane of the Public Health Laboratory Service, but no definite conclusions regarding the source of the infection could be arrived at.

The total number of notifications (676) represents an increase of 281 on the previous year, measles accounting for 266. No case of diphtheria was recorded during the year and no deaths occurred from measles or whooping cough.

Eleven of the thirteen cases of dysentery occurred in a mental institution in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
5	2	1	1	5	—	—	—	—
15	3	2	3	—	1	1	1	1
25	3	3	—	—	2	—	1	—
35	5	3	1	1	3	2	—	—
45	5	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & over	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—
Totals	22	14	6	8	11	5	3	1

There were two deaths of persons who had not been previously notified.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(Signed) ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

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